



DOC NewsLine

October 2004

Auditors Impressed with DOC Facilities

Great Scores

What hard work went into the reaccreditation process in September! Several facilities welcomed auditors from the American Correctional Association as they examined files, questioned authority, toured grounds, etc.

Secretary Stalder has already sent out congratulations and audit results but we thought we would recap them here again because so much effort is put into making sure everything is perfect for these events. Thanks to everyone for the professionalism shown throughout the process.

Allen Correctional Center – September 15th

100% Mandatory Standards
99% Non-Mandatory Standards

About Allen's efforts, one auditor stated her faith in privatization had been renewed.

Louisiana State Penitentiary

100% Mandatory Standards
99.3% Non-Mandatory Standards

Auditors were impressed with the excellent quality of life at LSP and the positive interaction of staff with inmates.

David C. Knapps Training Academy

100% Mandatory Standards
100% Non-Mandatory Standards

Staff commitment impressed auditors most, noting that training is a very challenging job.

Headquarters

100% Mandatory Standards
100% Non-Mandatory Standards

Audit team Chairman Lee Vester: "Preparedness leads to professionalism and it is clear that Louisiana lives by the ACA manual."

J. Levy Dabadie Correctional Center

100% Mandatory Standards
99.2% Non-Mandatory Standards

"The employees here live and breathe the team work concept. I have never seen a cleaner institution."

Avoyelles Correctional Center

100% Mandatory Standards
99.2% Non-Mandatory Standards

One auditor noted the rare feat Avoyelles accomplished by improving on its previous score for its fifth audit, which shows tremendous dedication and commitment to the process.

Recruiting Tomorrow's Leaders - - TODAY!

Employees from Headquarters and Louisiana State Penitentiary participated in the production of the first Civil Service recruiting video.

The video features testimonies from our outstanding employees and informs prospective personnel of the benefits and rewards of working for state government.

We thank the following employees who shared their experiences and promoted the importance of our agency.

David Brasseaux
Connie Chapman
Byron Decoteau
Sal Denova
Christy Drickamer
Cathy Fontenot
Samantha Franks
Melanie Gueho
Peter Harris
Clay Heintze
Troy Poret

Don't forget our United Way events scheduled for October 29th and November 5th at Headquarters.

BRCC Bound

At least the correctional leaders of tomorrow will be learning from the best. The Department is losing Elayn Hunt Correctional Center Warden Marty Lensing to retirement, but he won't exactly be taking it easy.

An adjunct for Baton Rouge Community College already, Warden Lensing is going to help develop a full-time criminal justice curriculum at the school.

Warden Lensing gave 30 years of outstanding service to the state, 15 of those years as Hunt's Warden. His retirement is effective January 13, 2005.

Warden Lensing is helping Warden Jimmy LeBlanc (DCI) learn the ins and outs of Hunt in the meantime.

LAMCJW Conference

-Submitted by Dep. Warden Loetia Young, LCIW

On Thursday, September 30 and Friday, October 1, 2004, the Louisiana Association of Minority Criminal Justice Workers held their 24th Annual Conference at the Holiday Inn Select, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The Conference was well attended, in excess of over 500 participants, from all disciplines and occupations including the academic communities of Southern University, Grambling State University, and Louisiana State University.

Thursday's session topics were:

- "The Fight Against Terrorism and Individual Liberties: Have We Gone Too Far?"

- Social Work Treatment Modalities In a Criminal Justice Setting: Working With The Special Needs Client.”
- “Morale and Motivation: The Essential Elements For Employees’ Performance.”
- “Black On Black Violence: Causes and Solutions.”

The evening ended with a social, which was also well attended by approximately 200 members. These members were challenged to a Limbo Contest with the winner of the contest winning \$100.00.

Friday’s topics dealt with social issues.

- “Battered Women and Abused Children: How Serious Is The Problem?”
- “Preventing Violence in Our Community: What Can and Can’t Be Done.”

Secretary Richard Stalder opened the conference with remarks and he introduced the keynote speaker, Ms. Susan E. Poole, retired Warden and Criminal Justice Consultant from California. Ms. Poole was presented with recognition for her participation in the Criminal Justice field and the LAMCJW Organization from Governor Kathleen Blanco, a Key to the City of Baton Rouge and a Proclamation from the Mayor of Baton Rouge, which was presented to her by Mayor Pro-Tem, Lori Burgess. Additionally, Ms. Poole received a plaque from LAMCJW for her outstanding address.

Secretary Stalder recognized LAMCJW’s Executive Director by presenting him with a certificate for his dedication to the organization from Governor Kathleen Blanco. Mayor Pro-Tem, City of Baton Rouge, Lorri Burgess presented a Proclamation to the Executive Director of LAMCJW for his dedication to the organization and advocating professionalism to better the community.

All of the speakers were knowledgeable about their topics and did outstanding presentations. The conference participants were very involved during the question and answer period.

Over 150 door prizes were given away and a Grand Prize of \$1000.00 was also given by way of a drawing. The winner, Mr. Henry Holden, is an employee of Elayn Hunt Correctional Center.

The overall membership response to this year’s conference was wonderful.

The Next Generation

On July 14, 2004, a new generation of bloodhounds was born at JLDCC. Like their parents and other dogs before them, the puppies will be trained to track down the scent of fugitives and lost children.

The picture below shows the puppies of K-9 Clyde and Ellie May’s litter. The litter consisted of nine puppies. Eventually, five of the nine puppies will find new homes at other state correctional facilities.



AED Training Saves the Life of a Winnfield Correctional Officer

Info from Alexandria Town Talk

As a member of the Special Operations Response Team at Winn Correctional Center, Gregory Brooks was trained to administer CPR and utilize an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) in life threatening circumstances. Little did he know that the machine he trained to use would save his own life.

On July 27, 2004, Brooks collapsed after completing a one-and-a-half mile run in a personal best time. After noticing Brooks' condition, S. O. R. T. Commander Lonnie Smith and S. O. R. T. member Ryan Spanier sprang into action in aiding their fallen comrade.

Smith, Spanier and LPN Pamela McGuire administered CPR until the AED was brought to the scene. With the assistance of Lisa Coleman, the AED sent a shock to Brooks' heart.

Thanks to the quick response and remarkable efforts of Jill Allen, Lisa Coleman, Ryan Spanier, Pamela McGuire and Lonnie Smith, that single shock allowed Gregory Brooks' heart to beat again.

Equally as important is Warden Tim Wilkinson's insistence that all of his 300-plus employees be trained to respond at a moment's notice. They were and it certainly saved Gregory Brooks.

Quote of the Month

"Excellence can be attained if you Care more than others think is wise, Risk more than others think is safe, Dream more than others think is practical, and Expect more than others think is possible."

- Unknown Author



Aiding the Prisons in Haiti

Warden Burl Cain along with Louisiana State Penitentiary responded to the dire needs of Haitian prisoners by soliciting much needed items that would help with very basic medical needs. Secretary Stalder and Warden Cain were approached by Dr. Elizabeth D. Gondles about the serious demand for medical supplies, wheelchairs and beds throughout prisons in Haiti. She had heard about Angola's ability to rally the community around the hospice program, and she was hoping that the same enthusiasm could be used in this project.

With a determined mind and a generous heart, Louisiana State Penitentiary contacted several organizations. Through this campaign, they collected various hospital equipment, such as wheelchairs, urinals, nebulizers and much more. The equipment was donated by the following organizations: Summit Hospital in Baton Rouge, Sweet Lake United Methodist Church in Lake Charles and West Jefferson Hospital in Jefferson Parish.

Community Appreciation

Info from the Kinder Courier-News

Administrators of Allen Parish Hospital honored both inmates and staff from Allen Correctional Center by hosting a luncheon in appreciation for their work painting the exterior of the hospital. With hard-work and exceptional conduct, the group not only gave the Hospital building a face-lift but is helping to maintain the grounds as well.

Administrator, Scott Barrilleaux expressed his appreciation by saying, "The hospital and community appreciates all of the time you took to paint the hospital. We barely had enough money to buy the paint much less pay for the labor. It takes everyone to make this hospital a success."

We know all institutions help out their communities. Send us your story for the next newsletter!

ASE Certification

The Automotive Service Excellence Certification is given to individuals who are educated in vehicle repair and service. These individuals demonstrate their knowledge and understanding by passing a nationally sanctioned test.

Through the dedication of the inmates, tutors and instructors, twenty-three inmates were certified at Avoyelles Correctional Center. Of the twenty-three inmates, thirteen received certifications in Automotive Technology, while two earned certifications in Diesel Powered Technology. The remaining eight inmates were certified in Collision Repair.

Congratulations to all who were involved in the program!

Aim and Fire

- Submitted by Waymon Clark



The National Police Shooting Championships were held in Jackson, Mississippi on September 20, 2004. During the three-day

competition, approximately four hundred and fifty marksmen from Mississippi and surrounding states gathered.

For the second year, the Louisiana State Probation and Parole Pistol Team represented our department at the prestigious event. Although the team placed in several matches during their first year, they were unable to participate in certain events because they lacked the proper equipment.

However, this year the four-member team competed in thirty-three events. And in twenty-eight of those matches, they placed in the top four. The team consisted of Mike Ware, Waymon Clark, Steve Fisher and Doug McClellan.

Here are some highlights from the competition:

Overall Marksman Shooter

Doug McClellan: 2nd place
Waymon Clark: 3rd place

Overall Classified Competitor

Steve Fisher: 1st place

Overall Marksman Team in the Revolver Division

McClellan and Clark: 1st place

Overall Sharpshooter Team in the Revolver Division

Fisher and Ware: 3rd place

Overall Classified Team in the Semiautomatic Division

McClellan and Fisher: 1st place

The rankings above are just a few of the many accomplishments during this competition.

In addition to the National Shooting Championship, Waymon Clark and Doug McClellan won the Shoot for the Gold Match in Alexandria. Also, McClellan and Fisher won first and second place marksman in the Mississippi State Championship in August.

The trophies from both the National Shooting Championship and the Shoot for the Gold Match are currently showcased at the Probation and Parole Headquarters Office.

The team wanted to thank the department leadership for its support and for allowing them to compete at a national level. Without the overwhelming support of their supervisors, district administrators, regional administrators, program managers, the Director and the Assistant Secretary, this event would not have had such a successful outcome.

Victim-Offender Dialogue

-Submitted by Jean Wall

In one of our prisons at the beginning of September, an inmate and a victim's parent sat across a table from one another. A parent, whose son was shot and killed by the inmate, shared an intense and moving conversation with him. It was the first Victim-Offender Dialogue (VOD) to take place since nineteen people trained as VOD facilitators in November 2003.

Victim-Offender Dialogue is a carefully structured process, which leads toward a safe, face-to-face meeting between a crime victim or a crime victim's survivor(s) and the offender who committed the crime. The process is victim-initiated and guided by the statements and question that a victim wants to say and ask. The offender makes the choice whether to participate or not (with neither reward nor punishment for the decision). The Warden of the institution where the offender is housed must grant permission before a dialogue can take place at his or her facility.

Each VOD is guided by a team of two trained facilitators, who take all steps possible to safeguard the physical and emotional safety of both victim and offender through the process of preparation and eventual dialogue. Facilitators meet with the victim and the

offender, separately, in preparation for the direct meeting. A number of meetings will usually take place. The process moves from preparation to dialogue only when both of the facilitators, the victim, and the offender agree that they are ready for a direct meeting. In addition, the victim, the offender, or the facilitators can halt the process at any point.

Facilitators were previously recruited from inside and outside the Department. Currently, discussions are underway concerning recruiting, interviewing, and training additional facilitators in the next six to nine months.

At a departmental meeting early next year, there will be an informational session about VOD, directed to meet the needs of individuals, who have been designated "institutional contacts" by the Warden. The duty of the institution contact will be to assist VOD facilitators in submitting a dialogue request for an inmate at that site. Anyone wishing to receive notice of that event or having additional questions about the VOD program can contact Jean Wall in the Secretary's Office.

WCI Inmates Offer Seniors Advice

Info from the Bogalusa Daily News

Washington Correctional Institute invited twenty-seven graduates from Varnado High School into the prison facility. The teens had participated in VHS's first Project Graduation, which was sponsored by Warden James Miller and Jaycee Sponsor Sheryl Muwwakkil.

During their visit, the graduates had an opportunity to speak with six inmates from the Washington Jaycees. Through each inmate's life story, the importance of personal choices and responsibilities were emphasized to the

teens. The inmates also urged the group to create goals in their lives and to fight pressure from peers.

Along with words of wisdom, the inmates were able to supply the students with school bags and give away a CD player. The gifts were purchased with money that the prisoners had raised.



Arno, the K-9, Comes to the Rescue

On September 15, 2004, the East Feliciana Sheriff's office asked for the assistance of Major John Smith and his trusty sidekick, Arno. The duo traveled to Cheneyville to aid in serving a warrant.

When the suspect fled from the authorities, Arno was released. As he was trained, Arno successfully detained the suspect 200 yards from his residence.

Fan Drive

Each summer Channel 12, the CBS affiliate in Caddo Parish, sponsors a fan drive. Fans are donated to both elderly and needy citizens during the hot summer months. This summer, FWCC Human Relations Organization and the Vets Incarcerated group were able to provide the station with ten fans.

Safe Neighborhood Project

Submitted by Charles Finkley, Lake Charles P & P

Last year, Lake Charles Probation and Parole was awarded 67,600 dollars for the federally funded grant program, Safe Neighborhood Project. This program was established to remove illegal firearms from communities.

Within the last year, agents have successfully extracted illegal firearms and illegal drugs from neighborhood streets, probationers and parolees (as seen in the photo below).



P & P's Crackdown on Crime

Probation and Parole officers have been busy fighting crime in August and September. As a result, several officers have been mentioned in newspaper articles around the state. Here are some examples of the excellent work that they have participated in.

- On August 4, 2004, the Catahoula News Booster reported that Officer Murphy Rochelle caught a group of people unloading materials and equipment. The supplies and equipment would have been used for the production of methamphetamine.
- On September 2, 2004, The Daily News stated that Tim Phelps and Shannon Stewart aided the Bogalusa Police Department in recovering cocaine. The cocaine was found at the residence of person on probation. The drugs were thought to have a market value of 10,000 dollars.
- According to the Town Talk, Probation and Parole officers worked alongside officers from Alexandria Police Department, Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office street teams, the FBI and the U.S. Marshals Office, to capture the second suspect in the shooting of an off-duty sheriff's deputy and the rape of a woman in Levee Park. Officer Jerome Hopewell was one of three to spot the suspect before the arrest.

- According to the Jennings Daily News, the Jeff Davis Parish

Probation and Parole Office was informed that a parolee had been using drugs. After the parolee tested positive for narcotics, probation officers found more evidence that lead to a search of the suspect's house. Again, the materials for a methamphetamine lab were discovered.

Keep up the good work!

LA – ATSA Conference

The Louisiana Chapter of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, LA-ATSA, held their third annual training conference at the Holiday Inn in Baton Rouge, on September 24, 2004. This conference focused on "Promoting Effective Community Management of Juvenile & Adult Offenders."

Glenn A. Hanks and Connie Durio from the Lake Charles Probation and Parole Office were invited to speak. In addition, Glenn and Connie have spoken at local schools to the administrative staffs, teachers, nursing staff, and students in southwest Louisiana.

Employee Recognition

The following facilities recognized their employees for August and September Monthly Awards:

DWCC

August Employees of the Month
Sergeant Bill Gray – Security Officer

EHCC

August Employees of the Month
Darla Kling – Support Employee

Master Sergeant Dennis Cook – Security Officer
Captain Darrell Burks – Supervisor

September Employees of the Month

Jim Smith – Support Employee
Master Sergeant Joseph McEvoy – Security Officer
Shaketha Brown – Supervisor

FWADE

September Employee of the Month

Sergeant Lynda Manatad – Security Officer

FWADE

Employee of the Quarter

Sergeant Lisa Martin-Nez – Support Employee
Lieutenant Arthur Falcon – Supervisor

SHRC

August Employees of the Month

LaTonya Jones- Support Employee
Ernest Rice – Security Officer

WCI

August Employees of the Month

Master Sergeant Larry Feazell – Security Officer

Welcoming New HQ Staff Member

- Submitted by Christy Ball

Please join the HQ Business Office in welcoming Mary Gonzalez to the grants staff as the new RSAT Program Coordinator. Mary will be working with Christy Ball and Gayle Deshotel in monitoring and providing oversight to the various grants administered by the office. In addition, she will give special attention to the RSAT program.



Mary Gonzalez is in the center.

As the Grants Administration Specialist with the Houston Galveston Area Council, Mary brings six years of professional experience to the grants office. She possesses expertise in fiscal monitoring and grants administration. Mary will be making site visits to the various institutions during the next several weeks, in order to familiarize herself with each unit's RSAT needs. We welcome Mary to the Corrections' team.

Lighten Up Louisiana!

David Wade Correctional Center has two teams that are participating in Governor Blanco's Lighten Up Louisiana competition. The competition was established to promote healthier lifestyles in Louisianans.

The first team, The Lean Mile, has lost 108.25 pounds since the beginning of the program.



The Lean Mile

The second team, Team Cadillac, has lost 39.5 pounds.



Team Cadillac

Congratulations to both groups! If your institution has a Lighten Up Louisiana team or teams, please send in your information for the next newsletter.

✚ **Congratulations** to Cheyene Nichols, a Pharmacy Student Worker at Elayn Hunt Correctional Center. Cheyene passed the national certification exam and received a certificate from the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board.

✚ **Darlene** Dorsey from Central Louisiana's Partners in Literacy wanted to express her deep appreciation for Dabadie Correctional Center's help. Dabadie aided Partners in Literacy by enhancing the building's appearance, moving heavy furniture and opening heavy boxes.

✚ **Steve** Hoyle Rehabilitation Center helped support evacuees from Hurricane Ivan by donating 103 mattresses to Tallulah Community Center.

Please email your newsletter information to Pam Laborde at Headquarters. Our next newsletter will be distributed in early December.

Thanks to all of our employees who sent articles in.

Noteworthy

✚ **Thanks** to Sergeant Chad Firmin of Avoyelles Correctional Center: twenty JAYCEES inmates are now certified in CPR thanks to Chad.